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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a final office action in response to communications received on 8/11/2008. Claims 1, 2, and 5-32 are amended, Claims 3 and 4 are cancelled, and Claims 33 and 34 are added. Thus, Claims 1, 2, and 5-34 are pending in this application.

Response to Amendments

2. Applicant has overcome the specification objection relating to the abstract by amending for correction. Also, applicant has overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph by deleting the word “comprehensively” and amending claims to more clearly point out and distinctly claim that which the Applicants consider to be the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boushy et al. (US 6,003,013), hereinafter referred to as Boushy.

5. Regarding **Claim 32**:

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Boushy discloses a system for settling an account without cash utilizable in both a hotel with a restaurant and a casino with gaming machines installed in the hotel ([col. 13, lines 34-39],

“The accumulated points represent a monetary value associated with the customer's activities and may be used in place of cash within any of the affiliated casinos. Thus, in addition to the already noted benefits of the point system, it contributes to the establishment of a cashless, paperless business environment”);

See Also ([col. 1, lines 15-20],

“invention relates to the field of systems for tracking customer activity at casinos, and in particular, to systems for tracking customers' gaming and non-gaming activity across affiliated casino properties”),

the system comprising:

an identification medium issuing device for issuing an identification medium to a hotel user, the identification medium capable of being utilized in the casino and the hotel and having an identification information including an identification number which is differently allotted for each hotel user, ([col. 1, lines 27-30], “these tracking programs are implemented by providing each customer with a casino membership card”) and ([col. 1, lines 37-42], “Customer cards may also be used to track customer activity at casino venues, such as special events, showrooms, and hotels, through card readers and computer terminals manned by casino employees”)

the identification medium issuing device being installed in the hotel, and the identification medium being utilizable for a room key of a room of the hotel user and having a deposit reference page for referring a deposit amount deposited by the hotel user therein ([col. 3, lines 21-32], "Another example of an enhanced physical instrumentality is...the automatic unlocking of a door to a privileged facility, such as a VIP club, when the customer's card is recognized")--furthermore, the nature of the particular room, i.e. hotel room or VIP room, has been deemed merely intended usage of the claimed invention and therefore accorded little patentable weight;

a first server storing deposit amount data deposited in the deposit reference part in connection with the identification number of the identification medium ([col. 11, lines 66 – Col. 12, line 3], "Gaming and non-gaming activities are treated differently, and updates occurring at step 444 typically include non-wagering activities related to gaming. For example, a customer's account may be updated at this point to reflect redemption of activity points, redemption of a comp voucher, or currency or marker transaction (credit advance)"). See Also ([col. 5, lines 7-9], "Central database server 112 includes a central patron database (CPDB 220, FIG. 2A), comprising customer accounts based on data");

a reading device for reading the identification information recorded in the identification medium issued by the identification medium issuing device, the reading device being installed in the restaurant of the hotel and in each of the gaming machines, and the reading device being able to refer the deposit amount of the deposit reference part in the identification medium; and wherein a renewal treatment of the deposit

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amount and a payment treatment from the deposit amount are managed by the first server ([Abstract], "Customer accounts are updated with new activity data whenever a management system associated with the casino receives customer data from input devices, such as card readers, workstations, and dumb terminals, located at various venues"). See Also ([col. 5, lines 7-9], "Central database server 112 includes a central patron database (CPDB 220, FIG. 2A), comprising customer accounts based on data"); and

a second server storing payment amount data read by the reading device corresponding to the identification number; and wherein the payment treatment is executed by the second server based on the reading of the deposit amount in the deposit reference part of the identification medium through the reading device. ([col. 1, lines 31-37], "Each identification number has an associated customer account that is stored in the casino's computer system and updated to reflect customer activity. Customers need only insert their cards in slot machines or card readers associated with gaming tables or give their cards to a casino employee to have their betting activity monitored and reflected in their accounts.") See Also ([col. 8, lines 55-59], "Central CMS 284 handles day to day transactions for each of casino LANs 120', maintaining a separate data store for each LAN 120' under its management. The data stores of central CMS 284 for LANs 120' are periodically updated to CPDB 220 to maintain the centralized data current.").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-2, 5-16, and 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Binh Thanh Vuong et al. (US 2002/0147042), hereinafter referred to as Vuong, in view of Boushy et al. (US 6,003,013), hereinafter referred to as Boushy.

8. Regarding **Claim 1**:

Vuong discloses a casino management system complete with an “interface manager for interfacing the table to a communications network and detectable gaming objects,” [Abstract]. Vuong however, fails to disclose a system for settling an account without cash utilizable in both a hotel with a restaurant and a casino with gaming machines installed in the hotel.

However, Boushy teaches a system for settling an account without cash utilizable in both a hotel with a restaurant and a casino with gaming machines installed in the hotel ([col. 13, lines 34-39],

“The accumulated points represent a monetary value associated with the customer's activities and may be used in place of cash within any of the affiliated casinos. Thus, in addition to the already noted benefits of the

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point system, it contributes to the establishment of a cashless, paperless business environment”);

See Also ([col. 1, lines 15-20],

“invention relates to the field of systems for tracking customer activity at casinos, and in particular, to systems for tracking customers' gaming and non-gaming activity across affiliated casino properties”),

the system comprising:

identification medium issuing means for issuing an identification medium to a hotel user, the identification medium capable of being used in the casino and the hotel and having an identification information including an identification number which is differently allotted for each hotel user, ([col. 1, lines 27-30], “these tracking programs are implemented by providing each customer with a casino membership card”) and ([col. 1, lines 37-42], “Customer cards may also be used to track customer activity at casino venues, such as special events, showrooms, and hotels, through card readers and computer terminals manned by casino employees”)

the identification medium issuing device being installed in the hotel, and the identification medium being utilizable for a room key of a room of the hotel user and having a deposit reference page for referring a deposit amount deposited by the hotel user therein ([col. 3, lines 21-32], “Another example of an enhanced physical instrumentality is...the automatic unlocking of a door to a privileged facility, such as a VIP club, when the customer's card is recognized”)--furthermore, the nature of the

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particular room, i.e. hotel room or VIP room, has been deemed merely intended usage of the claimed invention and therefore accorded little patentable weight;

a first server storing deposit amount data deposited in the deposit reference part in connection with the identification number of the identification medium ([col. 11, lines 66 – Col. 12, line 3], “Gaming and non-gaming activities are treated differently, and updates occurring at step 444 typically include non-wagering activities related to gaming. For example, a customer's account may be updated at this point to reflect redemption of activity points, redemption of a comp voucher, or currency or marker transaction (credit advance)”). See Also ([col. 5, lines 7-9], “Central database server 112 includes a central patron database (CPDB 220, FIG. 2A), comprising customer accounts based on data”);

reading means for reading the identification information recorded in the identification medium issued by the identification medium issuing means, the reading means being installed in the restaurant of the hotel and in each of the gaming machines, and the reading device being able to refer the deposit amount of the deposit reference part in the identification medium; and wherein a renewal treatment of the deposit amount and a payment treatment from the deposit amount are managed by the first server ([Abstract], “Customer accounts are updated with new activity data whenever a management system associated with the casino receives customer data from input devices, such as card readers, workstations, and dumb terminals, located at various venues”). See Also ([col. 5, lines 7-9], “Central database server 112 includes a central

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patron database (CPDB 220, FIG. 2A), comprising customer accounts based on data”);
and

a second server storing payment amount data read by the reading means corresponding to the identification number; and wherein the payment treatment is executed by the second server based on the reading of the deposit amount in the deposit reference part of the identification medium through the reading means. ([col. 1, lines 31-37], “Each identification number has an associated customer account that is stored in the casino's computer system and updated to reflect customer activity.

Customers need only insert their cards in slot machines or card readers associated with gaming tables or give their cards to a casino employee to have their betting activity monitored and reflected in their accounts.”) See Also ([col. 8, lines 55-59], “Central CMS 284 handles day to day transactions for each of casino LANs 120', maintaining a separate data store for each LAN 120' under its management. The data stores of central CMS 284 for LANs 120' are periodically updated to CPDB 220 to maintain the centralized data current.”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a system for settling an account without cash utilizable in both a hotel with a restaurant and a casino with gaming machines installed in the hotel, as taught by Boushy, in order to better “contribute to the establishment of a cashless, paperless business environment” [Boushy; col. 13, line 39], since so doing could be performed readily and

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easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

9. Regarding **Claim 2**:

Vuong fails to disclose a system, wherein the second server manages money flow in the hotel for each of the hotel users.

However, Boushy teaches a system, wherein the second server manages money flow in the hotel for each of the hotel users ([Col 1, line 34], “Customers need only insert their cards in slot machines or card readers associated with gaming tables or give their cards to a casino employee to have their betting activity monitored and reflected in their accounts”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a system, wherein the second server manages money flow in the hotel for each of the hotel users, as taught by Boushy, in order to better “contribute to the establishment of a cashless, paperless business environment” [Boushy; col. 13, line 39], since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

10. Regarding **Claim 5**:

Vuong discloses a system according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of gaming machines are installed in the casino ([Abstract], “invention provides the capability to

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adapt common casino games”), and wherein at least one of a roulette ([0005], “the roulette wheel ...located on the casino floor”), a gaming table device for playing card game and a slot machine is included in the gaming machines ([0070], “Referring now to FIGS. 12-15, the order of play for exemplary casino table games are described”).

11. Regarding **Claim 6**:

Vuong discloses a system wherein the roulette comprises: a roulette wheel having a plurality of pockets formed therein ([0005], “the roulette wheel ...located on the casino floor”) and ([0011], “if the game of chance is roulette, the gaming object is the steel or plastic ball whose position on the roulette wheel will determine one of the 38 (or 39) values. Each gaming object is adapted to generate at least one unique signal that may be detected by the intelligent table.”);

a bet board having a plurality of bet areas formed corresponding to the pockets of the roulette wheel [Figure 9];

first detecting means arranged on the roulette wheel, for detecting a position of the pocket where a roulette ball stops on the roulette wheel and value in a roulette game corresponding to the pocket ([Abstract], “roulette ball are programmed with a unique value that may be selectively detected by the intelligent table. Once detected, the value is transmitted to the interface manager.”);

second detecting means arranged on the bet board, for detecting a bet position of a chip and bet value when the chip is betted on the bet area ([0022] FIG. 9 illustrates

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a portion of a roulette wheel in accordance with the present invention having a plurality of readers); and

payout calculating means for calculating a payout in the roulette game based on both the position of the pocket where the roulette ball stops and the value in the roulette game detected by the first detecting means and both the bet position of the chip and the bet value detected by the second detecting means ([0077], “the present invention permits the casino to monitor in real-time the payout of bets and to make sure that the dealer is correctly handling the bets placed by physical players because the chips bet by each physical player are counted by each reader 210 associated with a defined position.”); and

a player tracking system server for managing a history of the roulette game based on a detected result by the first detecting means, a detected result detected by the second detecting means and the payout calculated by the payout calculating means ([0039], “memory 306 also serves as a local store for the information acquired by each reader”).

12. Regarding **Claim 7**:

Vuong discloses a system wherein the player tracking system server manages the history of the roulette game corresponding to the identification information of the hotel user read by the reading means ([0061], “programmable non-volatile memory section to further aid the casino in monitoring the play at table”) and ([0039], “memory 306 also serves as a local store for the information acquired by each reader”).

13. Regarding **Claim 8**:

Vuong discloses a system wherein the first detecting means comprises: a first transmitting antenna and a first receiving antenna both of which are arranged parallel with each other on each of the pockets; a first scanning driver connected to both the first transmitting antenna and the first receiving antenna ([0040], “antenna 402 may comprise a radio frequency detector for detecting an RF signal”);

a second transmitting antenna and a second receiving antenna both of which are arranged parallel with each other on each of the pockets, so as to cross the first transmitting antenna and the first receiving antenna at right angle; and a second scanning driver connected to both of the second transmitting antenna and the second receiving antenna ([0065], “antenna associated with module 602 in the ball is sufficient so that a programmed serial number may only be detected”).

[0066], “As shown in FIG. 9, a plurality of readers 210 are positioned in alignment with at least every other slot on the wheel. Each reader will have a detection range as indicated by dashed lines 902. Thus, when a ball 800 is positioned in a slot having a reader (not shown), the associated reader will detect the ball. When the ball is positioned in a slot between the two slots having the readers, both of the adjacent readers will detect the presence of the ball 800. By extrapolating the reading from the two readers, table manager 222 determines the slot where the ball is residing. Each reader is coupled to the reader network

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220 by a short range RF transmitter coupled to the bottom side of the rotating roulette wheel.”)

14. Regarding **Claim 9**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the first detecting means detects the pocket where the roulette ball stops by detecting a change of receiving state in electric wave detected by the first receiving antenna and the second receiving antenna ([Claim 23], “roulette ball having an embedded circuit programmed with a value, said value capable of being detected by said reader when positioned in said defined position”),

when scanning electric wave is sent from the first transmitting antenna by the first scanning driver and is sent from the second transmitting antenna by the second scanning driver ([0084], “each of the readers associated with the roulette wheel are coupled to table manager 222 by radio signal”).

15. Regarding **Claim 10**:

Vuong discloses a system, further comprising: identification information recording means arranged in the roulette ball, identification information for identifying the roulette ball being recorded in the identification information recording means; wherein the identification information includes at least information in connection with origin of the roulette ball, a place where the roulette ball can be utilized and a kind of the roulette ball.

([0065], "FIG. 8 illustrates yet another gaming object. This sectional view illustrates a roulette ball that is readily detected when it resides in a slot of a roulette wheel. In one preferred embodiment, the ball 800 is ceramic and module 602 is embedded therein. The size of the antenna associated with module 602 in the ball is sufficient so that a programmed serial number may only be detected from a distance of less than the width of one and a half slots on a roulette wheel.")

16. Regarding **Claim 11**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the identification information recording means comprises a subminiature wireless ID tag embedded in the roulette ball, and wherein the identification information recorded in the subminiature wireless ID tag is read by the first detecting means ([0065], "the ball 800 is ceramic and module 602 is embedded therein") and ([Claim 23], "roulette ball having an embedded circuit programmed with a value, said value capable of being detected by said reader when positioned in said defined position").

17. Regarding **Claim 12**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein it is determined whether the roulette ball can be utilized or not based on the identification information read by the first detecting means [0065 and 0066].

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18. Regarding Claims 13 and 24:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the second detecting means comprises: a first transmitting antenna and a first receiving antenna both of which are arranged parallel with each other on each of the bet areas of the bet board; a first scanning driver connected to both the first transmitting antenna and the first receiving antenna ([0040], “antenna 402 may comprise a radio frequency detector for detecting an RF signal”);

a second transmitting antenna and a second receiving antenna both of which are arranged parallel with each other on each of the bet areas, so as to cross the first transmitting antenna and the first receiving antenna at right angle; and a second scanning driver connected to both of the second transmitting antenna and the second receiving antenna [0040, 0065, 0066, 0084, Claim 23].

19. Regarding Claims 14 and 25:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the second detecting means detects the bet area where the chip is betted by detecting a change of receiving state in electric wave received by the first receiving antenna and the second receiving antenna, when scanning electric wave is sent from the first transmitting antenna by the first scanning driver and is sent from the second transmitting antenna by the second scanning driver ([0040], “antenna 402 may comprise a radio frequency detector for detecting an RF signal”) and ([0063], “For token 600, a value may be programmed into the memory of the chip for detection by reader 210 or 214”).

20. Regarding **Claims 15 and 26**:

Vuong discloses a system, further comprising: chip information recording means arranged in the chip, chip information being recorded in the chip information recording means; wherein the chip information includes at least information in connection with a specific number for identifying the chip, bet value and a place where the chip is utilized.

(“[0063] FIG. 6 illustrates another gaming object. Specifically, a casino chip or token 600 is shown having an embedded module 602... For token 600, a value may be programmed into the memory of the chip for detection by reader 210 or 214.”) and ([0077], “the present invention permits the casino to monitor in real-time the payout of bets and to make sure that the dealer is correctly handling the bets placed by physical players because the chips bet by each physical player are counted by each reader 210 associated with a defined position”).

21. Regarding **Claims 16 and 27**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the chip information recording means comprises a subminiature wireless ID tag embedded in the chip, and wherein the chip information recorded in the subminiature wireless ID tag is read by the second detecting means ([0063], “casino chip or token 600 is shown having an embedded module 602...For token 600, a value may be programmed into the memory of the chip for detection by reader 210 or 214”).

22. Regarding **Claim 21**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the gaming table device comprises: is a gaming table; a card arranging part to which cards are dealt, the card arranging part being formed on the gaming table ([0035], “a defined position 208 where the cards are dealt”);

a bet part to which the chip is betted, the bet part being formed on the gaming table ([0071], “the bet is place by positioning a stack of chips at the appropriate spot at each player position 202 on the table 112”);

first detecting means for detecting kinds of the cards dealt on the card arranging part ([Abstract], “Gaming objects, such as cards, die, chips, tokens or roulette ball are programmed with a unique value that may be selectively detected by the intelligent table”); and

second detecting means for detecting the chip betted on the bet part ([0077], “the present invention permits the casino to monitor in real-time the payout of bets and to make sure that the dealer is correctly handling the bets placed by physical players because the chips bet by each physical player are counted by each reader 210 associated with a defined position.”); wherein

the player tracking system server manages a history of the card game based on the kinds of the cards detected by the first detecting means or the chip detected by the second detecting means ([0039], “memory 306 also serves as a local store for the information acquired by each reader”).

23. Regarding **Claim 22**:

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Vuong discloses a system, wherein the player tracking system server manages the history of the card game corresponding to the identification information of the hotel user read by the reading means ([0061], “programmable non-volatile memory section to further aid the casino in monitoring the play at table”) and ([0039], “memory 306 also serves as a local store for the information acquired by each reader”).

24. Regarding **Claim 23**:

Vuong discloses a system, wherein the first detecting means comprises: two or more resonance wireless ID tags embedded in the card ([0039], “Interface 302 is responsible for acquiring the value of each card (or RFID chip) positioned within the detection range of each reader”);

a card determining device arranged in the card arranging part for determining kinds of the cards based on frequencies of echo waves by sending electromagnetic wave to each of the resonance wireless ID tags and receiving echo waves emitted from the resonance wireless ID tags ([0062], “positioned proximate to readers it is able to determine the value of the card using proximity detection techniques”) and ([0040], “antenna 402 may comprise a radio frequency detector for detecting an RF signal”) and ([0050], “then the CAVN field will have a valid range between 1 to 54 to indicate the suit and the value of each card”).

25. Regarding **Claim 33**:

Vuong discloses the system according to claim 1, wherein when a bet is conducted for the gaming machine in the casino by using the identification medium, a bet amount is input through an input device after the identification medium is read by the reading means ([0090], “the player may place a player's identification card over the reader to establish their stake or credit line”).

26. Regarding **Claim 34**:

Vuong fails to disclose the system according to claim 1, further comprising a third server in which a list having several items indicating a using status of the hotel user in the hotel is formed and stored.

However, Boushy teaches a system comprising a third server in which a list having several items indicating a using status of the hotel user in the hotel is formed and stored ([col. 2, lines 42-67], “comprises a local area network (LAN) at each affiliated casino property and a wide area network (WAN) for coupling data among the casino LANs...[e]ach casino may also maintain a local database of customer accounts, including the status data based on points earned at the casino”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a system comprising a third server in which a list having several items indicating a using status of the hotel user in the hotel is formed and stored, as taught by Boushy, in order to better “contribute to the establishment of a cashless, paperless business environment” [Boushy; col. 13, line 39] and since “Substantially all casinos have

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implemented some form of customer tracking... used to track customer activity at casino venues, such as special events, showrooms, and hotels, through card readers and computer terminals manned by casino employees” [Boushy; col. 23-41] --so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

27. Claims 17-20 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Binh Thanh Vuong et al. (US 2002/0147042) (Vuong), in view of Boushy et al. (US 6,003,013) (Boushy), as applied in the rejections aforementioned, and further in view of Kloss et al. (US 5,531,309), hereinafter referred to as Kloss.

28. Regarding Claims 17 and 28:

Vuong discloses a system, further comprising: measuring means arranged corresponding to each of the bet areas in the bet board; wherein the measuring means calculates a number of the chips ([0038] “a chip tray proximate to the dealer's position 204. The chip tray is coupled to reader network 220 such that the total number of chips in the tray may be counted and the value transmitted to a monitoring server coupled to LAN 224.”)

Vuong fails to explicitly state that the measuring means is based on the unit weight of one chip.

However, Kloss teaches a system, wherein the measuring means calculates a number of the chips based on the unit weight of one chip ([Abstract], “A gaming machine has internal coin container sensors (110, 112) that sense the weight, and therefore, the number of coins contained in the internal coin containers”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a system, wherein the measuring means calculates a number of the chips based on the unit weight of one chip, as taught by Kloss, in order to more efficiently “calculate the value of a stack of chips or tokens” [Vuong, 0067], since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

29. Regarding **Claims 18 and 29**:

Vuong discloses a system, further comprising: measuring means arranged corresponding to each of the bet areas in the bet board; wherein the measuring means calculates a number of the chips ([0038] “a chip tray proximate to the dealer's position 204. The chip tray is coupled to reader network 220 such that the total number of chips in the tray may be counted and the value transmitted to a monitoring server coupled to LAN 224.”)

Vuong fails to explicitly state wherein the measuring means comprises a semiconductor pressure sensor.

However, Kloss teaches a system, wherein the measuring means comprises a semiconductor pressure sensor ([Abstract], "A gaming machine has internal coin container sensors (110, 112) that sense the weight"). Any metal scale would suffice as a "semiconductor pressure sensor."

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a system, wherein the measuring means comprises a semiconductor pressure sensor, as taught by Kloss, in order to more efficiently "calculate the value of a stack of chips or tokens" [Vuong, 0067], since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

30. Regarding **Claims 19, 20, 30, and 31**:

Vuong discloses a system, further comprising: measuring means arranged corresponding to each of the bet areas in the bet board; wherein the measuring means calculates a number of the chips ([0038] "a chip tray proximate to the dealer's position 204. The chip tray is coupled to reader network 220 such that the total number of chips in the tray may be counted and the value transmitted to a monitoring server coupled to LAN 224.")

Vuong fails to explicitly state wherein it is determined whether the chip is forged or not by comparing the calculated number of the chips by the measuring means with the result detected by the second detecting means and it is determined that the chip is

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forged when the calculated number of the chips does not coincide with the result detected by the second detecting means.

However, Kloss teaches a system, wherein it is determined whether the chip is forged or not by comparing the calculated number of the chips by the measuring means with the result detected by the second detecting means and it is determined that the chip is forged when the calculated number of the chips does not coincide with the result detected by the second detecting means.

([Abstract], “A gaming machine has internal coin container sensors (110, 112) that sense the weight, and therefore, the number of coins contained in the internal coin containers (104, 106). The gaming machine also has mechanical and/or optical sensors (102, 114) to monitor the inflow and outflow of coins. By comparing the number of coins, as determined by weight, with the number of coins detected by the mechanical and/or optical sensors, fraud is readily detected.”).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a system, wherein it is determined whether the chip is forged or not by comparing the calculated number of the chips by the measuring means with the result detected by the second detecting means and it is determined that the chip is forged when the calculated number of the chips does not coincide with the result detected by the second detecting means, as taught by Kloss, in order to more efficiently “calculate the value of a stack of chips or tokens” [Vuong, 0067], since so doing could be performed readily and easily by

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any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Response to Arguments

31. Applicant's arguments filed 8/11/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

32. Regarding the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Boushy indeed anticipates the present invention describing a system for settling an account without cash utilizable in both a hotel with a restaurant and a casino with gaming machines installed in the hotel ([col. 13, lines 34-39],

“The accumulated points represent a monetary value associated with the customer's activities and may be used in place of cash within any of the affiliated casinos. Thus, in addition to the already noted benefits of the point system, it contributes to the establishment of a cashless, paperless business environment”);

Additional pertinent citations, arguments/positions, and lines of reasoning have been provided in the rejection above.

33. Regarding the rejection of claims 1-2, 5-16, and 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103:

In response to applicant's argument that Vuong taken in view of Boushy fails to present a prima facie case for obviousness, applicant is directed to the above citation

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relating to claim 32 for like reasoning (claim 1 and 32 recites substantially similar limitations) as well as additional features described in the applicable rejections herein. Additionally, the rationale for the combination has been further elucidated: it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Vuong so as to have included a system for settling an account without cash utilizable in both a hotel with a restaurant and a casino with gaming machines installed in the hotel, as taught by Boushy, in order to better “contribute to the establishment of a cashless, paperless business environment” [Boushy; col. 13, line 39], since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

34. Regarding the rejection of claims 17-20 and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103:

In response to applicants argument pertaining to what Kloss teaches and the reasoning to combine teaching with Vuong and Boushy—the number of coins contained in the internal coin containers is deduced by sensing the weight of each unit-weight of one coin (known to have such prescribed weight) and therefore illuminating the total number of coins that must exist in total. Pertinent citations, arguments/positions, and lines of reasoning have been set forth above and remain applicable in the rejection as standing. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Conclusion

35. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

36. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fathi Abdelsalam whose telephone number is (571) 270-3517. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8:00-5:00pm ET.

37. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janice Mooneyham can be reached on (571) 272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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38. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/F. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Janice A. Mooneyham/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3689